The A. F. of L. Weekly News Letter gives a brief summary of important matters affecting labor, according to the industrial, legislative, and judicial fields, and such other information that will benefit the trade union movement.

AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR

WEEKLY NEWS LETTER

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AGITATE! EDUCATE! ORGANIZE!

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INDICTMENT OF MINERS IS A "FESTERING SORE"

Washington, March 18.—President Wilson's special Colorado coal strike commission has presented a report on Colorado conditions to the chief executive. They also tender their resignations for the reason that the recently-created state commission, they say, is "better equipped by law to deal with all phases of the problem."

The commission says that of 400 indictments returned in Colorado in connection with strike troubles, all were against strikers, and that this has left a "festering sore" on public opinion.

"Some of the citizens of Colorado," the report continues, "believe that many illegal acts were committed on the part of the operators, and the justice which finds all the indictments on one side does not seem to them even handed.

"Your commission naturally expresses no opinion as to the correctness of this belief. It simply calls attention to the existence of this feeling. Again it is believed by some, even among the operators, that in many of the counties the state has not sufficient evidence to convict.

"As long as this condition of affairs exists, the industrial health of Colorado will be weakened by this festering sore. It is not the business of your commission to weigh the rights and wrongs of the case, but we should fail short of our duty if we did not call attention to this feature of the situation and emphasize the importance to the state of providing a prompt remedy."

Seth Low of New York city, Charles W. Mills of Philadelphia, and Edward Gilday of Clearfield, Pa., composed the commission. The latter is a member of the United Mine Workers' union.

SEVEN-HOUR BAR STANDS.

Washington, March 18.—Congressman Borland's attempt to lengthen the work day of Washington government clerks from seven to eight hours was defeated by large majorities on three separate votes, after the chair had ruled that the motion to make it a "rider" to an appropriation bill was not in order. Congressman Borland then introduced a resolution which provided for a 15 per cent reduction of the number of clerks, and that hours be increased to equalize the loss of service to the government. This resolution was defeated, a motion to recommit the resolution was also defeated. As the house was sitting as in committee of the whole, no record vote was taken.

The attempt to lengthen the clerks' work day was opposed by the American Federation of Labor. President Gompers argued that hours should be reduced, but insisted that the work day of mechanics and other workers who now labor eight hours and longer should be shortened instead of the clerks' hours lengthened.

The agitation has resulted in the formation of a Federal Civil Service Employes' union, chartered by the American Federation of Labor. Hundreds of clerks are joining this organization.

DENVER TAILORS GAIN.

Denver, Col., March 18.—A score of custom tailor shops have signed the wage scale of Journeymen Tailors' union, No. 3 of Denver. Increases in pay are agreed to, as is increased wages. These gains have been secured by the tailors having prolonged hearings before the state industrial commission, which recently decided that the tailors' demands were just. While the agreement is not mandatory, the employers have accepted same. Under the law it would be illegal for the tailors to strike before 30 days' notice to the commission.

Denver, Col., March 18.—The state industrial commission has decided that the wage demands of the tailors' organization are just. These workers are asking for increases from 37 1-2 cents to 42 1-2 cents, and an eight-hour day, now prevailing. The commission on December 1, 1915, that they desired changes in working conditions. There are hopeful that the commission will aid them in enforcing the new schedule.

CAR MEN BETTER CONDITIONS.

Washington, March 18.—As a result of a two days' strike of conductors and motormen employed by the two street car companies in this city, a one-year agreement has been signed by the companies and committees elected by the recently-organized Street Car Men's union.

The new wage rates are as follows: First year, 23½ cents per hour; second, third and fourth years, 24½ cents; fifth and sixth years, 25½ cents; seventh, eighth and ninth years, 26½ cents; tenth year and over 27 cents. Eight hours continuous time shall be allowed each employe, and no regular man shall be required to perform extra duty when an extra man is available. It is agreed that the representatives of the men have signed the agreement, or their successors, shall be known as a grievance committee to adjust differences with the companies.

BOOKBINDERS RAISE WAGES.

St. Louis, Mo., March 18.—The four unions of bookbinders in this city have secured a three years' contract and increased wages. One of the unions is composed of over 500 women. The rates for bookbinders range from $12 per week the first year to $22.50 during the third year. Night rates are $1.50 a week more than the day scale. Paper cutters' wages range from $21 and $22 to $22 and $24 a week during the contract; finishers and gilders from $21 and $24 to $24 and $26 a week; bindery girls from $8.50 and $9.50 to $10.50. A scale for apprentice girls is also agreed to, as is the eight-hour day.

MAY CONTEST WEEKLY PAY LAW

Spartanburg, S. C., March 18.—Cotton manufacturers in this section of the state are dissatisfied with the weekly pay law, which takes effect July 1. Court action to test its constitutionality is said to be under way. The law, they claim, will bring "revolutionize" the present system of bookkeeping and that it will mean that it does not benefit the workers as they are more liable to spend their wages instead of saving them.

HOLD MAKERS LIABLE.

Albany, N. Y., March 18.—Through a decision of the court of appeals, a manufacturer is held liable for defects in an article causing injury to a purchaser, even though the purchase is made through an intermediary. The decision which was rendered in the case of Donald C. MacPherson against the Buick Motor company, is said to establish a new principle in law.

PASS ANTI-INJUNCTION BILL.

Trenton, N. J., March 18.—The state assembly has passed an anti-injunction bill by a vote of 35 to 12. A similar bill was approved by the last assembly, but failed of passage in the senate.

STAGE STARS AWAKE: UNIONISM FAVORED

New York, March 18.—Failure to secure an equitable contract between theatrical managers and themselves has resulted in the unanimous adoption of a resolution by the Actors' Equity association, last week, that the question of joining with the American Federation of Labor be submitted at the annual meeting of the association, to be held next May. More than 200 actors and actresses attended the meeting, which was presided over by the president, Francis Wilson. Before the vote was taken Wilton Lackaye, Digby Bell and other actors spoke in favor of the plan. President Wilson said:

"Our members, having suffered for years under various injustices, or from fancied injustices, felt, of course, that our demands were equitable, and the managers felt that they were equitable. Neither party only felt that it was equitable but knew they were. But they also said, equitable as they may be, let us have some one and get them. That even dared us to come and get them, and up to the present time we have been afraid to take the dare.

"Are we any less important as a profession, as a people, than the actor mechanics? They took the dare, and they now have equitable contracts. Are we any less important than the musicians? Are we not more artistic? Are we not more hysterical than musicians? Yet those temperamental and hysterical musicians, from the snare drummer up to Paderewski, took the dare and they now have equitable contracts.

"I am not discouraged. I have great confidence. In the face that the actor must not stand forever under the insulting declaration of the manager or being the chief business book of the universe. That to his own interests and to his own dignity. We must move in this matter. Listening to the voice of caution, we have delayed, and delayed, and delayed until nothing has been accomplished toward our equitable demands."

Similar meetings were held on the same day in other sections of the country. Vaudeville actors and actresses are organized in the White Rats' Actors' union and are affiliated to the American Federation of Labor.

Chicago, March 18.—About 200 actors and actresses, members of the Actors' Equity association, contemplate joining with the American Federation of Labor at a meeting last week. Among the prominent stage folk present were John Drew and Blanche Ring. It was agreed that final action should not be taken until all members of the association could vote on the question.

UNIONISTS CALL ON PRESIDENT.

Washington, March 18.—President Gompers, Vice President O'Connell, Treasurer Lennon and Secretary Morrison of the American Federation of Labor, called at the White House on Monday, to put a stop to the competition of enlisted musicians of the government with civilian musicians. It was shown that the government furnishes uniforms to the enlisted men, that these enlisted men and pays them good salaries, and that they then enter into competition with civilian musicians, who walk the streets while the government musicians play in hotels and cafes at a wage scale much lower than the private citizen can afford.

The unionists also asked the President to favor the Smith-Hughes bill for industrial education and vocational training.

President Wilson was presented copies of a resolution passed by the A. F. of L. convention against ship subsidies, which take public moneys for the purpose of promoting private gain. The resolution also opposes the creation of an American merchant marine to be manned by American seamen under conditions which make them an effective naval reserve.

TO BE ENLARGED TWO STORIES.

Washington, March 18.—Samuel Gompers, Frank Morrison and Daniel O'Connell, trustees of the A. F. of L. office building, have arranged that the building shall be two stories in height instead of five stories, as provided under the original plans and contracts. The building was to have been five stories and a basement, with provision for two additional stories some time in the future. The trustees have decided, however, that the building be made two stories at present, and constructed by making it the full seven stories at this time.

LONGSHOREMEN MAKE GAINS.

Baltimore, March 18.—For the first time in the history of their organization the Longshoremen's union has signed contracts with the principal steamship lines of this port. Wages are increased and working conditions improved. About 1,000 longshoremen are affected.

The International Longshoremen's association is conducting an organizing campaign along the Atlantic seaboard, and officials say their membership has been increased from 3,000 to 5,000 as a result. They predict that 15,000 members will be enrolled in New York city alone by July 1.

LABOR UNIONS THE BEST LAW.

Greenville, S. C., March 18.—The Home Circle, published in this city, declares that operatives in cotton mills have obtained the privileges to even raise a window to get a breath of fresh air and look outdoors.

"But with all the laws we might have," says the Home Circle, "will owners defy and ignore them. Operatives need the law, and they need the protection of advantageously constructed by making it the full seven stories at this time.

INSIST ON CONTRACT.

Boston, March 18.—A strike will be called by the Waterproof Garment Workers' union if employers do not take up to their proposition which calls for one-half of a 15 per cent increase on March 15 and the remainder on July 15. The Manufacturers' association has notified the union that it will be impossible to pay the March 15 installment, but promise the same amount July 15. The workers have rejected this plan and insist that the original contract be complied with.

WOOLEN PROFITS $5,160,294.

Springfield, Mass., March 18.—At the annual meeting of the board of directors of the American Woolen company, it was stated that the net profits for this company last year were $5,160,294, out of which a dividend of $2,880,000 was paid on preferred stock.

SIGNING TAILORS' CONTRACT.

Richmond, Va., March 18.—Merchant tailors are signing the new wage scale of the Journeymen Tailors' union, which has been presented after a vigorous organizing campaign.

State Interference With Lives of Workers Is Never Urged to Extend to Business Men

Albany, N. Y., March 18.—In a letter to Chairman Fitzgerald of the New York State Federation of Labor's legislative committee, President Gompers discusses the Mills bill, now pending in the New York legislature, and which is under fire as a system of compulsory health insurance for workers.

The A. F. of L. executive refers to investigations of this question now being conducted by the A. F. of L. executive committee under instructions of the Philadelphia convention. He says the Mills bill "would build up a bureaucracy that would have some degree of control or authority over all the workers of the state."

President Gompers denies the paternal theory that the state should be a guardian of the working people and says if any one has suggested that business men, professional men, or those directing the financial, industrial and commercial institutions would agree to have governmental agents interfere with the privacy of their lives, as the Mills bill proposes in the case of wage workers.

The president records emphatic protest against this paternalism that is being continually advocated by "professional reformers."

"That the state should provide sickness insurance for workers," continues President Gompers, "is fundamentally based upon the theory that these workers are not able to look after their own interests and the state must interpose its authority and wisdom and assume the position of parent when a child needs something in the very suggestion of this relationship and this policy that is repugnant to a free citizen. It seems to be at variance with our concepts of voluntary institutions and of freedom for individuals.

"There must necessarily be a weakening of the independence of spirit and virility when compulsory insurance is provided for so large a number of citizens of the state. Dangers to wage-earners might readily arise under the machinery for the administration of this social insurance that would establish compulsory physical examinations. The purposes of such examinations has been perverted in many places and made to result to the detriment of workers. The discretionary power lodged in the administrative board could readily be used in efforts to coerce organizations of wage-earners, for the administrative body has the power to approve societies and also withdraw approval at any time.

"The enactment of this proposed bill would be another step in the direction to regulate everything by law and commissions. Several of our statesmen have been calling attention to the dangers lurking in this government by commission. It would inevitably build up a bureaucratic system which would be under the control and perhaps domination of agents not directly responsible to the people. This becomes especially serious when it has to do with such intimate matters as health. When once a political agent is authorized to take care of the health of citizens, there is no limit to which he may go in the activities of the state to interfere in all of the relations of life. Even homes would not be sacred from his intrusion.

President Gompers insists that workers should be provided with information and the education that will enable them to take care of themselves. This, together with a more equitable distribution of wages "will enable them to give their information really in directing and managing their own affairs.

"Trade organizations," he says, "are not unmindful of the health problem, in fact they have done more to secure conditions of sanitation in places of work and in the neighborhoods of workers, healthful homes, than any other agency. As the information of the workers increases, they give more thought to problems of health and sanitation.

"In connection with this, you will find of particular interest the work being done by the garment workers of New York city, through the efforts of their organizations, the garment industry of New York has been organized and standards of sanitation and health established and maintained. Already they are beginning upon the question of personal health and personal hygiene. If you will get some of the reports and literature of the sanitary board of garment workers, you will see the possibilities of efforts through economic organizations. In many international unions there is established the system of social insurance in case of illness, unemployment and several other features. Even in international unions where these benefits have not been instituted, nearly every local union has established it, but quite apart from these benefits paid, or rather in addition to them, the trade union movement has secured a reduction of the hours of labor and better standards of wages and conditions of employment which have improved the physical and mental health of the workers, so much so that nearly every trade union can record the increased length of life of its membership, and one of them, that of my own craft, the Cigarmakers' international union, has increased the average length of life of the membership in that organization nearly 15 years in the last two decades. What is true of this organization is true, more or less, of every other organization of labor in America. They are social insurance and its tangible benefits, and will continue to progress and improve from time to time to secure opportunity to government and governments to exercise tyranny and unfreedom."

WHAT "OPEN SHOP" MEANS

Pittsburgh, Pa., March 18.—The National Founders' association and the International Metal Trades' association have joined hands in an attempt to break the strike of iron molders who are demanding shorter hours. The following section of the contract being forwarded to prospective strikebreakers will indicate the amount of "liberty" these nonunionists will retain:

"The National Founders' association hereby agrees to employ you for the term of one year from this date, in the trade of molding or coremaking. You are to work faithfully and for the best interest of the association, and to obey regulars; you are to work in such shops as the association designates, and when transferred from one shop to another, the association will pay the railroad fare and you will not lose time consumed in travel. You are to be at all times ready to move from place to place as the association may direct, and you are working in a struck shop you are to be particularly careful to work for the interest of the shop where the trouble is.

"Either the president or commissioner of the association shall be the judge as to whether or not you have been at all times faithful, conscientious, and living up to the rules of the association.

"The above provides for typical nonunion conditions, these employers insist on referring to the Smith-Hughes bill as one for industrial education and vocational training.

President Wilson was presented copies of a resolution passed by the A. F. of L. convention against ship subsidies, which take public moneys for the purpose of promoting private gain. The resolution also opposes the creation of an American merchant marine to be manned by American seamen under conditions which make them an effective naval reserve.

GAINS BY COPPER EMPLOYES.

Phoenix, Ariz., March 18.—With the official declaration that the strike of copper miners has failed, it is said that these workers are now comparing present rates with those that formerly prevailed. As a result a comparison between the mine managers and the men, wages are increased to almost 18 per cent for 4,000 workers. Employes have been receiving $1.80 and $1.85 but will be increased $2 and 25 per cent. All mechanics are equalized on a $6 cent an hour basis at 13 cent copper, unless other camps have been paying more, in which event the Greenlee camp will raise it also. All other employes, however, "go to the wall" with the increase of copper. This establishes a precedent. The strike has also increased trade union sentiment in that mining section and it is said organization plans are being formed by electricians, machinists, barbers, chauffeurs, engineers and stenographers and bookkeepers.

NEWS FROM MERIDEN.

Meriden, Conn., March 18.—Several hundred silver workers have left this city because of the strike at local silver manufacturing plants, to refuse to work under existing conditions. These plants are being manned by gangs of strikebreakers who are attempting, in a make shift manner, to duplicate the high standard of work turned out by former employes. The strike started last October.

Building laborers have asked for a wage increase of 25 cents a day, to take effect April 1. These workers are preparing to strike to enforce their demands.

RAILROAD MEN CONFER.

Chicago, March 18.—Plans for presenting the eight-hour demand of the four railroad brotherhoods to the general managements of the United States and Canada were discussed at a conference in this city last Sunday. Representatives of the brotherhoods of conductors, engineers, firemen and enginemen and trainmen were present. It was stated that the referendum vote in favor of eight hours was adopted by an overwhelming majority.

"LOITERING" LAW AMENDED.

Boston, March 18.—The common council of Boston has passed an ordinance which was originally intended to protect women in parks and public places. This ordinance has been used by police to harass pickets in the vicinity of strikes. As amended the law permits strikers to exercise their legal rights without interference by the police.

FREIGHT HANDLERS STRIKE.

Fall River, Mass., March 18.—Three hundred freight handlers at the docks of the Fall River steamship line struck Friday for an increase in pay and the hour. The men have been receiving 19 cents an hour; they ask 25 cents.

PREVAILING RATES URGED.

Portsmouth, N. H., March 18.—The Central Labor Union is urging the adoption by common council of an ordinance providing for an eight-hour day and the prevailing wage rates in all city contracts.

HATTERS' RELIEF FUND.

Washington, March 18.—Up to and including March 15, the A. F. of L. Secretary Frank Morrison has received $95,243.67 for the benefit of the Danbury hatters. This money represents the pay of one hour's labor on January 27 by the unionists contributing.

TUBERCULOSIS DEATH RATE IS DECREASING

New York, March 18.—The anti-tuberculosis movement is decreasing the death rate because of that disease, says the national association for the study and prevention of tuberculosis in a statement issued by that organization.

In proof of this, the association points to the report of the bureau of census showing that the tuberculosis death rate decreased from 195 per 100,000 population in 1904 to 146.3 in 1914. Nevertheless, the report showed that in 1914, tuberculosis killed one out of every eight deaths in the registration area of the United States.

It is stated that there are now in this country over 1,500 anti-tuberculosis associations, 500 open-air schools, 400 tuberculosis dispensaries, 800 open air schools and over 100,000 persons actively interested in the prevention of tuberculosis.

MINERS IN CONFERENCE.

New York, March 18.—Representatives of the United Mine Workers' union and the anthracite coal operators are in session in this city this week an agreement was reached between the miners and operators in the bituminous fields of western Pennsylvania, Ohio, Indiana and Illinois. This agreement is stated, will be signed shortly by soft coal operators in central Pennsylvania, West Virginia, Michigan, Iowa, Kentucky, Missouri, Kansas, Oklahoma, Arkansas, Texas, Wyoming, Montana and Washington, as the agreements in those states are based largely on the action taken in western Pennsylvania, Ohio, Indiana and Illinois.

FISHERMEN WIN STRIKE.

San Francisco, March 18.—The Deep Sea Fishermen's union has won its strike for the Asiatic codfishing steamships. Wages are increased and important working conditions agreed to. If a fisherman is injured through the fault of his own he shall be paid wages equal to the average of the fishing for the vessel to which he is assigned. If a vessel is abandoned the company shall use its best endeavors to provide for transportation to the home port, free of charge to the men, and upon return to San Francisco the men shall be paid in full for all wages and percentages earned up to the time of disaster.

CARPENTERS ORGANIZE.

Indianapolis, Ind., March 18.—Secretary Duffy of the Brotherhood of Carpenters reports that the following new locals have been organized during the past month:

Richwood, W. Va.; Akron, Ohio; Brooklyn (ship carpenters); Warrensburg, Mo.; Omaha, Neb.; Rockland, Me.; Webb City, Mo.; Alexandria, La. (colored); Shelbyville, Ind., Ky.; Dempolis, Ala.; Providence, R. I.; Fort Pierce, Fla.; Calexico, Cal.; and Henderson, Ky.

TEAMSTERS WANT MORE.

Quincy, Mass., March 18.—The Teamsters' union has presented a new wage scale to employers. The increase is 2 cents a week for drivers of one-horse wagons, $1 a week for two-horse wagons and $1 a week for three-horse teams, with a minimum of $16 for stablemen and $18 for chauffeurs is asked.

NEW YORK EXPORTS SOARING.

New York, March 18.—Exports from this port during the first two weeks of March averaged about $5,000,000 a week, as compared with $34,000,000 in February and $51,000,000 in January and December, according to statistics issued by the foreign trade department of the National City bank.

WILL PUBLISH REPORT.

Youngstown, Ohio, March 18.—The United Labor Congress of Mahoning county will send copies of the grand jury report on the East Youngstown riot to every central body in the United States.

TEAMSTERS RAISE WAGES.

Holyoke, Mass., March 18.—The Teamsters' union has secured signed contracts with practically every employer in Holyoke. Wages are increased and shorter hours secured.

HIGH DUES ARE NECESSARY

Indianapolis, March 18.—Writing in the October number on the necessity of high dues, Secretary Frank Duffy of the Brotherhood of Carpenters says:

"Through substantial advances and gains in power and influence more money is required for running expenses, and more money as a rule, is freely forthcoming on the principle that the larger the investment the greater will be the returns. Where labor unions, however, that principle does not seem to apply, at least if we are to judge by the fluctuations in union men.

"In the minds, the larger and more influential a labor organization becomes the lower should the running expenses be. That is the very meaning of it. Increase the per capita tax on the assumption that such is not really necessary, and the first consequence is a reduction in the membership. For instance, 250,000 members, can be run on the same monetary basis as a union of 50,000 or 100,000.

"On such a basis they expect benefits entirely out of proportion to the dues. Though it is not always the case, strikes to be financed, elaborate organizing campaigns to be undertaken and the business of the organization conducted on the most approved, up-to-date lines. They do not expect much more, but they never stop to figure out by what means such a financing has been performed with the resources available.

"These members do not realize that the regular, systematic growth of the demands of the industrial system of today have placed greater responsibilities on the labor unions and exacted more from them. The unions have to be financed and managed as unheard of in the past, administration has become at much greater and strikes cost infinitely more than ever existed in the former years. * * * Cheapness of that kind is in no sense economy, and is dear in the long run."

EDUCATION NECESSARY.

Washington, March 18.—Discussing the advantages of the community high school, the fundamental ideals of American government, Dr. F. P. Claxton, United States commissioner of education, said recently:

"No government will ever be safer or wiser than the popular sentiment of the people who make it. There can be no guarantee that this sentiment will not be wrong in the systematic provision of the means of knowledge and discussion. Democracy is the educational form which approximating it in every control may be more efficient, but government through public discussion means more in the advancement of the race."

TRAIN CREW NOT BLAMED

Harrisburg, Pa., March 18.—The public service commission has absolved a Pennsylvania railroad train crew from responsibility because of the recent wreck at Port Royal. It is stated that the shifting crew in the Port Royal yards knew nothing of a wooden freight car in the yards, and had not been warned. Recommendation is made that freight trains be investigated to see if any wooden cars are being cut out of line by heavier cars after shifting.

CONTRACTORS JOIN STATE FUND.

Albany, N. Y., March 18.—The New York State Bond Builders' association, employing between 7,000 and 8,000 workers in state road building and doing an annual business approximating 50 per cent of the contract work of the state, has decided to withdraw from all such policies in the state insurance fund.

A special committee reported that it believed the state fund to be the safest and cheapest form of insurance but the most satisfactory.

LABORERS ASK $3 A DAY.

San Francisco, March 18.—The United Laborers' union has presented a wage scale of $3 per day to employers. These workers, known as members of the International Hod Carriers, Building and Common Laborers' union. As the municipal car line work is the largest job now on many private contractors, the union is confident of success.

METAL WORKERS WIN STRIKE.

St. Louis, Mo., March 18.—Union sheet metal workers, stove mounters and metal polishers have won their strike against the Stove Mounters' Supply Works. All strikers will be reinstated and these workers have won 100 per cent organization in this plant.

RAILROAD LABORERS STRIKE.

Norwich, N. Y., March 18.—To enforce a demand for 3-cent wage increase 300 Ontario & Western railroad shop employes, bridgemen and trackmen engaged in repair work. The present average is less than 16 cents an hour.

HEALTH INSURANCE PLAN UNDER FIRE

Albany, N. Y., March 18.—President Holland of the state federation of labor opposed the Mills insurance bill at a hearing before the senate judiciary committee. A letter from President Gompers was read in which the A. F. of L. executive stated that the Mills bill was autocratic; that it would permit government agents to interfere with the lives of workers; that state officials might control trade unions, and in one ever suggests that business men be accorded this treatment.

The bill was urged by the American Society for Labor Legislation, whose representatives stated it was their purpose to secure the enactment of the bill in every state in the union. Many social workers favored the proposal.

President Holland, speaking for the organized workers of this state, declared that trade unionists resented the action of the framers of the bill in not asking for the advice of workers. He protested against the provision allowing employers to deduct from the workers' pay their portion of the sum of administration, and opposed several administration features of the bill. "This bill was drafted and given to us to eat, but we refuse to eat it," he said.

The bill provides for compulsory health insurance for all workers, except women who earn less than $100 a month. A state insurance fund and state supervision over health associations is prescribed districts into which the state would be divided. The state would pay 20 per cent of the cost, the remainder to be divided between the employer and the employe on a sliding scale, depending on the amount of earnings of the employe.

It is believed that the committee will recommend that the question of health insurance be investigated by the next legislature and a report made next year.

TO AID SMELTER MEN.

Denver, Col., March 18.—The Labor Bulletin of this city says:

"The long fight, won in 1898, by organized labor in Colorado to secure an eight-hour day for employes in mines, smelters and reduction mills, is again be taken up in the near future by the organized forces and at the request of employes in these industries an attempt will be made to have those parts of the laws that were not adopted in the meantime placed upon the statute books of the state.

"The recent 'fid of truce,' offered by John D. Rockefeller, jr., and pieced together from the blood-stained garments of the strikers' dead, has been accepted by the company's hirelings and thugs, but in spirit it has never received the sanction of the company employes.

"The spying system of the Colorado Fuel & Iron company makes it an impossibility for the rank and file among the working conditions from these interests to remain in ignorance.

"Therefore it becomes necessary for outsiders to take up the fight for humanity in the interest of the wage workers in the rod mills, roller mills, smelters, blast furnaces and cement works that are controlled by these interests."

WOMEN STRIKE IN WORCESTER.

Worcester, Mass., March 18.—The biggest strike of women's garment workers in the history of Worcester began here this morning when 1,000 hundred employes in the white goods industry struck for shorter hours and higher wages.

The strikers demand a 49-hour work week during the summer, a 50-hour week during the winter, an increase of 15 per cent in their pay, time and a half for overtime, and a committee of employes in every factory to adjust the prices to be paid for piece work, with the right to call for arbitration in the piece workers.

Representatives of the International Ladies' Garment Workers' union and local unionists are assisting the strikers.

DON'T LIKE BRANDEIS.

Washington, March 18.—Ex-President Taft has recorded his opposition to Louis D. Brandeis as associate justice of the United States supreme court. So has ex-United States Senator Root, Joseph H. Choate and three other ex-presidents of the American Bar Association, who have signed a joint letter of protest to the senate judiciary committee, now considering the nomination.

The signers of the letter declare that Mr. Brandeis' appointment "is lacking in reputation, character and professional career of Mr. Louis D. Brandeis, he is not in the judicial temperament of the supreme court of the United States."

MONTCLAIR BABIES HEALTHY.

Montclair, N. J., March 18.—"Baby week" in Montclair, which came to a close last week, has brought out the fact that the number of deaths of babies under one year of age per 1,000 births was 65 in Montclair in the last year, as compared with 128 for New Jersey and 125 for the United States. It is stated that the Montclair death rate has been cut in half since the organization of the local board of health, 22 years ago.

It might be added that Montclair is a fashionable suburb of New York and is populated by people with large incomes.

PAINTERS RAISE WAGES.

North Yakima, Wash., March 18.—The Painters' union has reorganized and secured a wage increase of 50 cents a day and a union shop agreement.

Local carpenters have perfected a temporary organization and made application to the Brotherhood of Carpenters for a charter.

CARPENTERS TO RAISE WAGES.

Topeka, Kan., March 18.—The Carpenters' union is negotiating a new wage contract with employers. These workers are asking for the union shop, 45 cents an hour and an eight-hour day. As the building season opens, organizers for local has increased in membership from 20 to over 200 within the past year.

TENNESSEE PAINTERS GAIN.

Clarksville, Tenn., March 18.—The Painters' union has secured a new agreement for an eight-hour day and 35 cents an hour.

Jackson, Tenn., March 18.—The Painters' union this since has increased wages 2 1-2 cents an hour.

BOILERMAKERS WANT MORE.

San Francisco, March 18.—The Boilermakers' union has presented a new wage scale to employers which calls for $4 per day for new work and $4.50 for old work. These unionists claim that their average is less.

OHIO STRIKE CAUSES TO BE MADE PUBLIC

Sensations Promised At Trials of Mill Owners.

"CONDITIONS ARE LAWLESS," IS VERDICT-OF GRAND JURY

Youngstown Officials Declare They Can Prove Outlaw Charges Against Iron and Steel Operators.

Youngstown, Ohio, March 18.—Prosecuting Attorney Henderson of Mahoning county is preparing for an early trial of Judge Gary of the United States steel corporation and the officers of five other steel concerns who were indicted last week by the grand jury.

While steel and iron company executives make light of these indictments, the following portion of the grand jury's report indicates that the trial will at least develop a few startling features on working conditions in the steel industry in this vicinity:

"We find, however, that there is an underlying cause back of not only the strike and the disaffection prevailing during the present time, but the best of the riot itself, a cause which will be shown upon the trial of some of the corporations and individuals against whom charges have been made by this jury as known by the indictments returned herewith. This evidence is not of such nature as should be exposed by this report, but will be given in the undoubted interest to the satisfaction of the court and of the public in further legal proceedings in connection with this investigation. We are firmly of the opinion that not only will this evidence show the lawless condition of affairs surrounding the labor conditions existing in and about the steel industries of this valley but will also indicate an absolute disregard on the part of certain corporations and individuals controlled by the same for the rights of, or justice to, the laboring classes or of the public generally."

EMPLOYERS FORCE BREACH.

New York, March 18.—The cloak, suit and skirt manufacturers of this city have forced an open breach between their association and the International Ladies' Garment Workers' union by refusing to accept decisions of the board of conciliation, formed to August 4, 1915. At that time a threatened strike of 60,000 garment workers compelled these employers to abandon their proposed nonunion policy. As part of this campaign eight trade union officials were arrested on murder charges, but were later acquitted. The board of conciliation has been accepted by the employers, who now declare they will not abide by the decisions rendered.

This action placed the union in a position where it was impossible to ignore the employers' attitude without a loss of dignity that every organized body must consider. At a meeting the Cloak, Suit and Skirt Manufacturers' association has been notified that it will be declared on a strike as an organization. The workers will deal with individual employers for the present, and will endeavor to defeat the association with which strikes have been called by the employers. The union's determination to maintain conditions secured after long sacrifice.

PASS COMPENSATION BILL

Frankfort, Ky., March 18.—The senate has passed the Knight workmen's compensation bill, which includes practically all of the recommendations made by a commission that recently investigated this question under authority of the legislature.

The senate had previously passed the bill, but in such a form that friends of compensation declared the law "would have no teeth." The house refused to concur in these amendments and redrafted the bill in its present form, which was finally accepted by the senate by the close vote of 20 to 17. Senator Knight urged that the bill be passed in such a shape that it would really afford compensation. "If not," he declared, "I hope the governor will veto it."

The friends are confident that Governor Stanley will sign the bill as passed.

A bill providing for semi-monthly pay that will apply to all corporations has been agreed to by the senate and house.

STONE CUTTERS ADVANCE.

Bedford, Ind., March 18.—Several Stone Cutters' unions in the stone belt will secure an increase in wages of 50 cents an hour to take effect May 1, when the international law providing for an eight-hour day half holiday will become effective.

The recent successful strike in this section has had an encouraging effect on members of the Stone Cutters' union. The machine men's locals are recognized and better working conditions secured.

Opposition to the air hammer is increasing among stone cutters, who declare that its constant use makes the tool paralyzes the hand of the operator and wrecks his nervous system.

APPEAL COURT SUGGESTED.

Washington, March 18.—A point of order defeated Congressman Keating's proposal that a court of appeals for the District of Columbia be created in the legislative, executive and appropriation bill. In urging his plan, the Colorado representative said:

"With this amendment I seek to establish a court of appeals for the civil service employes of the government, and to provide that no part of the appropriation shall be used for the pay the salary of an officer who dismisses a civil service employe without giving him the right of hearing."

BREWERY STRIKE ENDS.

Washington, March 18.—A strike of brewery workers that has been on for the past year against the breweries in this city has been settled. Engineers, engineers and stationary firemen were also involved. The agreement reached will make a new agreement with these workers, and on April 1, 1915, the employes will receive a raise. The conference an agreement satisfactory to all parties had been reached.

WANT WORKERS REINSTATED.

Springfield, Mass., March 18.—The Fiske Rubber company has discharged a score of men on the ground that "a curtailment of work" made this necessary. The Machinists' union is not satisfied with the explanation, as the shut committee and active unionists are the ones laid off. It was unanimously voted to strike if these workers are not reinstated. About 30 men are involved.